

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

A more subtle effect of the climate upon Annamite psychology is
Inability to receive sharp, clear-cut impressions.
Perhaps it is the
sunshine that has weakned their sensory reactions
along with
wil power. The Annamite dreams in a perpetual
melancholy
reverie uncontrolled by any critical faculty. His
thinking is confused
and mdbdsiYe: he cannot distinguish between people
and things. The
animal, yegetafote₉ and mineral kingdoms are thought
to share the same
as humans* Proclamations are read to trees
threatening to
to MndHttg wood if they are not more productive.
Anna-
wffl politely with the tiger who is about to spring
on them,
Mm of their poverty and dependent families. Life
flows indis-
into every object and being about man. Thus the
individual
is with the group and his physical environment:
the property
of neighbours has no dear-cut boundary from
one's own. The
are barely distinguishable from the dead. Annamite
folklore
it is metamorphoses of ladies into fox, and
conversely
of fish Their cleverness in detecting human
foibles is far
the Annamxtes* objective observation of nature.
Similarly, in
'is no division of kbour, just as there is no specializa-
<tf among the mandarins. In eating, the
Annamite starts
a bowl erf rice, to which he adds what pleases
him from
the tint lie at hand* It is impossible to
get precise
an Aanamite, Not that they are incurious—they will
put of the most personal nature—but their
repHes
at* inaonizate. If one asks the age of a man
obviously
vn& reply that he is over forty. Rites and
ktenniiiiabable detail reveal a chaotic state of mind which
m of tibe essential from the trivial.

The most
 cmtnbtitfoiis are their terse and
 pithy
 the .ritual mind at its best. They constitute
 lib of a ha\$ and accepted formulae and
 ready-
 in am fñimaiMaHe society.
 tie decefapmeixt of their own. paternalistic
 aad were the other great
 influences
 m The farced acceptance of cruel
 Chinese
 of* Cfaofeciaxiisx&'s consecration of social
 tite wty tfefspotie sovereigns. All effort
 took over one's savings, or
 win talent Nature was abun-
 m the put w» W'mmi aad certainly no
 , 4*